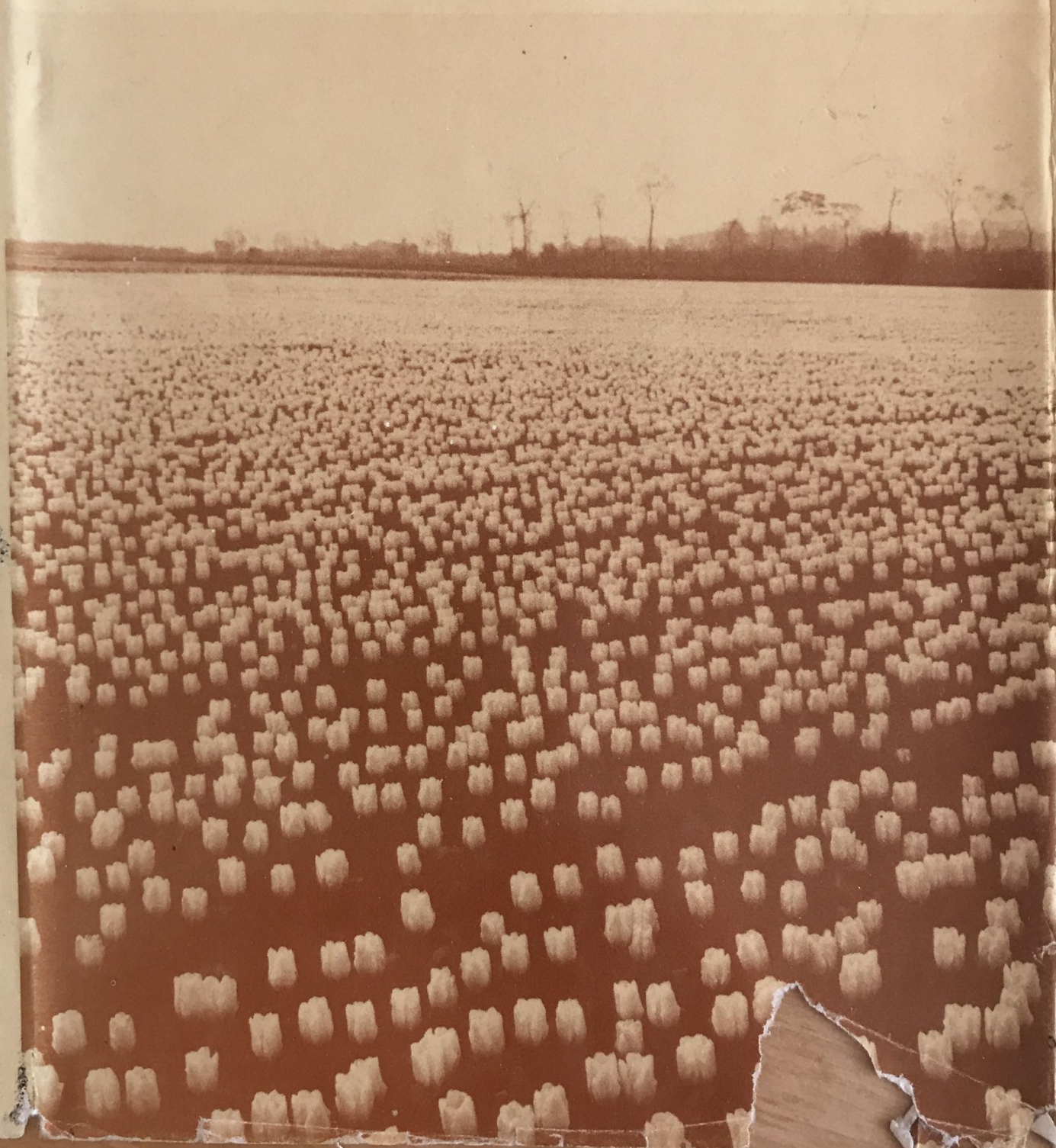


R.C. Dobbs

Bulbs in Britain
A Century of Growing

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Bulbs in Britain — A Century of Growing



Reg Dobbs is a farmer and bulb grower in Lincolnshire. He is involved in the co-operative marketing of bulbs and flowers and is keenly interested in research and promotion. He is currently chairman of the Springfields Council and chairman of the Advisory Committee at Kirton E.H.S. and a Bulb Member Governor of G.C.R.I.

Thank you, Mary, for all the
help during 1985.

Joan

Dec. 1985

Bulbs in Britain

A Century of Growing

by

R.C. Dobbs

1983

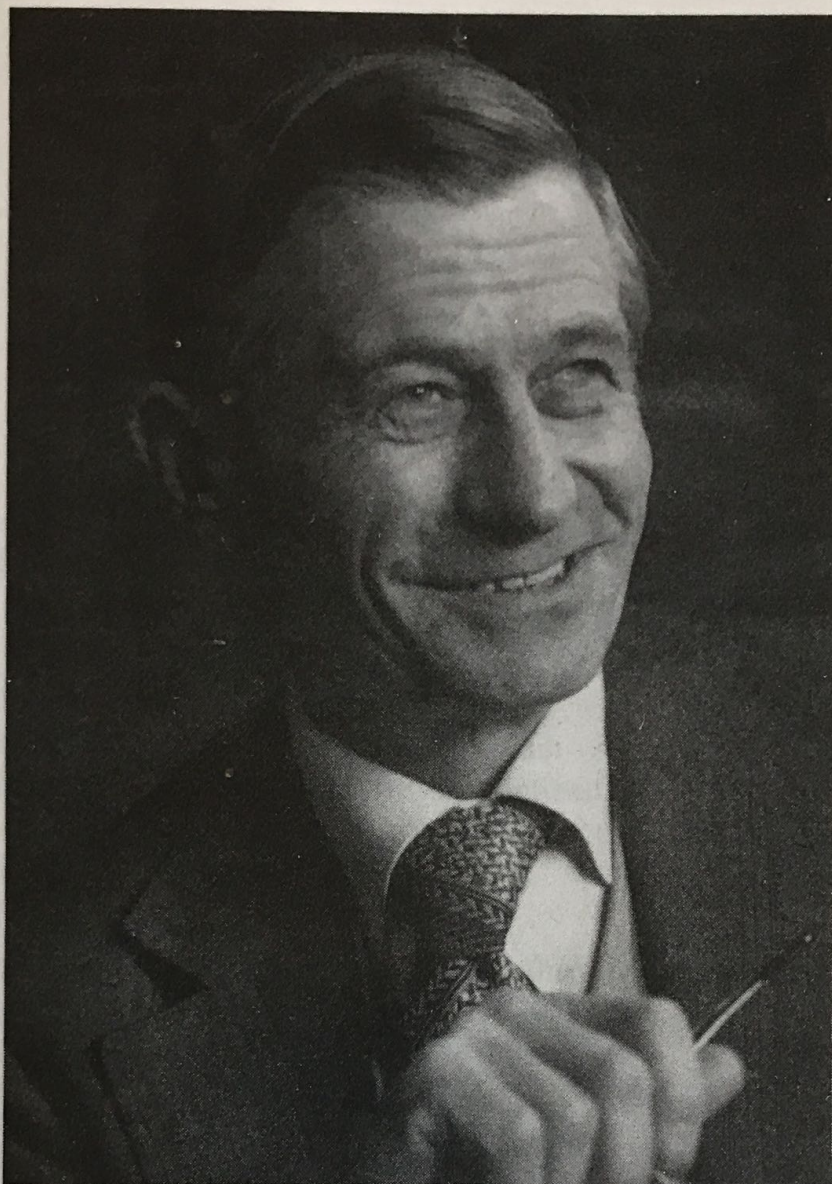
*See how the flowers as at parade
Under their colours stand displayed.
Each regiment in order grows
That of the tulip, pink and rose.*

*Andrew Marvel
1621 — 1678*

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The Author

Reg Dobbs farms seven hundred acres on the urban fringe at Pinchbeck and Spalding, growing 50 acres of bulbs. He is a past chairman of the Holland (Lincs) Branch of the NFU. Closely involved in co-operative marketing as a director of Lingrain Ltd., and was chairman of Lingarden Ltd. during its formative years.

Serves on the Research and Development Committee of the Potato Marketing Board, chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Kirton Experimental Horticulture Station and is bulb grower member of the Board of Governors of the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute. Chairman of the Springfields Council which administers Springfields Gardens, Spalding, the Spalding Flower Parade and the Spalding Horticultural Exhibition.

Preface

Flower bulbs have been grown in British gardens for centuries and the daffodil is the most popular species, going back to Tudor times and earlier.

The “daffadown dily” has been celebrated in poetry through the ages from Shakespeare to Wordsworth and its widespread popularity is shown by the folk names by which it is still called. These range from Easter Bells, still in common use on the continent, to simple “lilies”, the name used by my Scottish salesman in Edinburgh in the heat of the moment and especially when the strong waters of Hogmanay are running.

Among growers, workers and gardeners there is a tendency to call the trumpets, “daffodils” and white (red cupped), “narcissi” but the term narcissus is a generic name for the whole plant genera.

Three centuries ago John Parkinson wrote “Many idle and ignorant gardeners do call some of these daffodils narcissus where as all know that know any Latin that narcissus is the same thing”.

Other appealing names which have been used in olden times were “Lent lilies” and “chalice flowers”, the latter from the similarity of the cup to the communion chalice.

Jonquil is a term commonly used in America, though here it is generally confined to the small and delicately scented varieties like Trevithian.